**Roundtable discussion:**

1. **Key Brexit Concerns**

* Lack of knowledge around Brexit and what it will mean for people
* Lack of advice and uncertainty around where to access reliable advice
* Lack of engagement and connection of Brexit to everyday lives of people
* Big shock/changes after transition period, concerns that change will take place to swiftly and what this will mean.
* The introduction of the scheme and the confusion and uncertainty around it may have knock on effects for non-EU non UK/Irish nationals.
* Lack of urgency from UK government.
* Lack of clarity for cross-border workers especially at this late stage.
* Co-ordination of the social security system.
* Increase of racism and racist language- foreign nationals increasingly feeling unwelcome.
* Impact on young people.
* Threat of people (who aren’t qualified) to charge for advice, especially to those most vulnerable.
* Barriers to obtaining advice- lack of interpreters, cost, time, fear of ‘rocking the boat’.
* Concern around the impact that settled status could have on quality of life.
* Home Office not properly understanding the circumstances in Northern Ireland including the specific issues here- what works for London may not work for NI, relatively low immigration here.
* Underfunding of Ethnic Minority sector in NI, available resources not going to the groups/people who need it in all cases.
* Wider impacts on non-EU citizens.
* Employers becoming border patrols and becoming risk adverse to employing those who aren’t British or Irish citizens.
* People having to give up their national identity to secure rights/entitlements.
* Partnership-working to assimilate information.

1. **Key Brexit Support needs and proposed actions for the sector**

* Need for more research from on different communities living here- particularly Roma community.
* Providing more, detailed and understandable information- where to get it, interpreters, sign-posting.
* It would be better if advice around settled status is not classed as ‘immigration advice’ this could empower grassroots and community organisations to provide advice and assistance.
* Provision of funding for free immigration advice in relation to Brexit.
* Need for more experienced advisors.
* Need more and better allocated funding for ethnic minority sector here.
* Need for the roll out of the racial equality strategy in NI- tackling race hate, prejudicial attitudes.
* Work with employers to address workplace concerns and tensions.
* Need for long-term immigration support going on post Brexit.
* Tailored support for NI
* Need for state/government support for ethnic minorities post Brexit, can’t be completely left to voluntary and community sector.

1. **Other support NICVA could provide?**

* Help to address information needs of sector, awareness raising and informing sector on updates.
* More workshops on Brexit and provision of power points and notes.
* Colour coded updates useful similar to those in Professor Phinnemore’s presentation.
* A strategy for allocation funds to ethnic minority sector
* Providing support with settled status applications.
* Facilitate an ethnic minority network.
* Better coordination of what is going on elsewhere in relation to the ethnic minority sector.
* Publicise positive initiatives for the ethnic minority sector on NICVA website.
* Create a post-Brexit toolkit
* Consent from delegates to share contact information when registering for events- good networking opportunity